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Information Department  
British Embassy  
Washington, D.C.

October 24, 1962.

CUBA.

Following is text of Lord Home's speech on October 23 to the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce.

"When an international situation is so tense and so raw as it is following Russia's action in Cuba and the United States' response to it the only words which are worth speaking are those which may help to contribute to a solution of the problems.

But the true situation must be understood by our people if we are to play an intelligent part in the diplomatic and political activities which are bound to follow and will occupy the next few months.

The first essential is to recognise that international Communism as practised by Russia today is both opportunist and two-faced. We have lately had examples of these two techniques. In the Congo the Russians sought to establish control of that African country, in which few Russians had previously set foot, within a few days of the breakdown of local government. In Cuba they stepped in last year to take advantage of a situation which was already explosive. In Berlin they created a crisis where, but for their action, there was no need for any crisis at all. The purpose of all these adventures is undoubtedly one thing - that is to increase the area of Communist domination. We do not like in this country to believe ill of our neighbours, but the evidence is overwhelming that that is the Communist objective and unless we understand the broad strategy of Communism we will come to the wrong decisions when confronted by individual situations.

By putting medium-range and intermediate range ballistic missiles into Cuba Russia is deliberately placing her own power in a position to do three things - to threaten the United States, to threaten the Caribbean, and beyond those two, to threaten South American. We must recognize that this is plainly an act of power.

At a time when the non-dissemination of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear countries is on the agenda at Geneva, Russia introduces these weapons into new places.

At a time when the United Nations, actually this week, is beginning to debate this question and trying to carry on discussions, that is the time when the Russians do what they have not (repeat not) done in Eastern Europe - that is, put their offensive weapons on to the soil of a satellite.

There is, I fear, another aspect of Soviet policy of which we must be aware. Memory is short, but you will all remember that only 18 months or so ago the Russians were operating a moratorium of nuclear tests. They broke that moratorium

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Only last week, Mr. Khrushchev instructed Mr. Gromyko to assure President Kennedy that there were no offensive weapons in Cuba and Russia had no intention of putting them there. Within a week of that statement by the architect of Soviet policy proved that those words were said only to deceive.

At the United Nations last year I said that no genuine peace would come to the world until this double dealing was exposed. I find it necessary to repeat that. If the world wants peace, the countries, particularly through their membership of the United Nations, must insist that these practices in double-dealing must cease and cease now. I believe that this is so fundamental to the future peace of the world because, if we continue, no one can say we cannot drift into war.

The Americans are therefore right to let the world see plainly what is being done in secret by the Communists under their noses. Neutralism is no guarantee of safety, as the Indians are learning today from the Chinese.

With full knowledge of the dangers, and of the stakes at risk, I have always insisted that so long as Communist policy is double-faced, the response of Britain and of the free world must be double-handed. Communists must not (repeat not) be allowed to filch away free territory from free men. When they try to do that we must be sensible, reasonable, but firm.

We shall support the United States in the Security Council so as to try to bring the new danger in this new area under control.

So much for the right hand of our foreign policy which must be firm and strong.

Along with firmness I have said many times that it is our duty - however difficult the Communists may make it and however numerous the discouragements - to search for areas of agreement with the Russians and to practice conciliation in our dealings with them.

I would ask the Russians most seriously to weigh-up where their Communist doctrine is leading them. Is Russia being driven, as are the Chinese, relentlessly to extend her power? China is now attacking a neutral unaligned country with whom she had solemnly signed the Five Articles of Co-Existence, and she has fallen into the ultimate absurdity of accusing India, of all countries, of being imperialist.

I hope the Russians will see in time where their policy is leading. I can promise them this: immediately she settles down to negotiate, Russia will find the most ready response from our Government. The President of the United States is clearly looking forward to the day when we can get round the table and work out solutions of all our difficulties in negotiations which are genuine.

One other alternative is there for us. As I ventured to say to the United Nations only a few weeks ago: Man is now at the point of choice and the choice is this: whether we blow ourselves to bits or whether we sit down round the table and negotiate and negotiate again, however long that process lasts.

That is the choice we have before us today.

Meanwhile I can only say to our own countrymen that the Prime Minister and

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There is, I fear, another aspect of Soviet policy of which we must be aware. Memory is short, but you will all remember that only 18 months or so ago the Russians were operating a moratorium of nuclear tests. They broke that moratorium without notice but it was plain from the scale of the tests that under the cover of the negotiations at Geneva they had been preparing this great series of tests.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

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That is the choice we have before us today.

Meanwhile I can only say to our own countrymen that the Prime Minister and myself, upon whom the main burden of decision must fall, will, once we have checked the present fever, play our full part in an attempt to end the cold war and do everything we possibly can to cooperate with all countries, and the Russians if they will come in, in the creative tasks of peace.

Perhaps it will be a comfort to our people to know our one purpose is to try to create the interdependence of nations and bring the Communist nations into the fold with the free peoples.

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